

**George Mercer to George Washington, July 12, 1758,
19th-century transcription by William B. Sprague,
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FROM COLONEL GEORGE MERCER.

Camp 6 miles from Fort Cumberland July 12th. 1758.

SIR

The four days provision we brought from fort Cumberland exclusive of Monday, will be exhausted tomorrow night, & as I am so little advanced, & no waggon road to Raes Town I find it impossible to send there for a supply.

I have detached a serjeant & 15 men with 3 waggons which I beg you will despatch to me again to day with provision. I imagine what those 3 waggons will bring, may carry us at least so near, if not to Raes Town, that I shall not be troublesome to you again upon this head.

The woods are open here, but as I have orders to make the road wide, I find it very difficult to clear the timber being all large. A road for one waggon might be cleared as fast as it could drive, we only cleared half a mile the day before yesterday, Yesterday we made out more than two but we are now encamped only 6 miles from you. I had a most violent fit of the ague & fever Tuesday, which confined me all day from 8 in the morning to a waggon, & did not leave me till the same hour next morning.

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There were 2 barrels of powder put into the waggon for us of which I informed Mr. Kennedy, & he took out one in my presence. The other the Waggoner suffered too to be taken from him by a little serjeant in a green waistcoat (he says) by the description Sir our quarter master serjeant; of whom I much suspect such a thing as I know him to be very ignorant, impudent & stupid. I beg you order me another barrel as our men are not at all fully supplied & in case of an accident, we have no remedy save two boxes of ball. Pray Sir dont allow the waggons to be overloaded.

If I have my health dont doubt but I will be very diligent in completing the road, but I assure you 2 or 3 more fits will make me incapable of any thing.

I am Sir Your most obedient & humble Servant

GEO. MERCER ¹ or CAPT WAGGONERS

If any of the men of my company which I left behind sick are recovered, I hope you'll please to order them to join me with this command as I am very weak here.

¹ From a copy.